The Government has approved a special package to mitigate the distress of farmers in 31 suicide prone districts in the State of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. It aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, ex-gratia assistance, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. Distribution on seeds, including cotton seeds, at subsidized rate is one of the components of the package.

Problems of farmers and landless workers due to Hailstorm in Bundelkhand

1201. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the problem faced by farmers and landless workers on account of hailstorm during second week of February, 2007 in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the assistance being provided to the affected farmers and landless workers; and

(c) whether Bundelkhand areas was also affected on account of drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that, due to hailstorm in the second week of February, 2007, farmers and landless workers faced crop damage in Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Chitrakut, Jhansi, Lalitpur and Jalaun districts.

As per existing items and norms of expenditure for assistance from relief funds *i.e.* Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of natural calamities including hailstorm, assistance towards agriculture input subsidy is admissible to small and marginal farmers where crop loss on account of natural calamities is 50% and above, @ Rs. 1000/- per hectare for rainfed areas, Rs. 2500/- per hectage for irrigated areas and Rs. 4000/-per hectare for perennial crops. As per the existing norms, input subsidy is also admissible to farmers, other than small & marginal farmers, in case of severe calamity

occurring for second consecutive year (or subsequent year) at the above rates and subject to the condition that the subsidy will be payable at appropriate rate per hectare upto 2 hectares only, irrespective of size of holding.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that Rs. 40 lakhs for Banda district, Rs. 200 lakhs for Mahoba district, Rs. 15 lakhs for Hamirpur district and Rs.500 lakhs for Lalitpur distict have been allotted for providing agriculture input subsidy and Rs. 50.21 lakhs for Mahoba district and Rs. 7.57 lakhs for Lalitpur district have been allotted for providing assistance for repair/ reconstruction of damaged houses, as per norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF/NCCF. The State Government have further informed that in view of crop loss of 50% and above due to insufficient rains, Banda, Chitrakoot, Mahoba, and Hamirpur districts have been declared as drought affected.

Loss due to hailstorm

1202. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTUREL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loss to crops in Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Jalon and Lalitpur district on account of hailstorm in the second week of February, 2007;

(b) the assistanc being provided to farmers either by State Government or Central Government; and

(c) whether any request from the State Government has been received for relief to farmers in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) District-wise details of crop loss due to hailstorm in the second week of February 2007, as reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, is indicated below:

District	Area affected (in hectares)	Loss to crop (Rs. in lakhs)
Banda	174800	205.00
Mahoba	211603	7603.91
Hamirpur	2949	117.50
Jalon	6161.32	–
Lalitpur	16590	2681.73
Jhansi	–	–
Chitrakoot	–	–